



February 23, 2015

Spring Conference Save-the-Date

Our Spring Conference will be held April 7 & 8, 2015 in Helena at the Wingate Hotel. Please view the [draft agenda](#) and [register now](#). The state rate at the hotel will be available Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night for those who will need to travel further distances.

You may book your room anytime between now and March 15, 2015 by calling 406-449-3000 or emailing Tiffanie Zavarelli at Agm@winwingatehelena.com, identify yourself as being with "The Montana WIC Program". The state will reimburse costs for two staff members from each local agency (required attendance); however, we encourage more participation where possible. There will be content and training related specifically to retailer activities, so it is highly encouraged to send your LARC. Stay tuned for more details.

Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program (BPCP) Conference Call

The next BPCP Conference Call will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, starting at 9:00 am. I did not receive any agenda items. If you have something, time appears to be available to discuss it during the call. Check the [agenda](#) for the call-in information.

New Local Program Staff Training

The State Office will be offering training for new(er) local program staff on June 2 through June 4, 2015 and a second event on June 17 through June 19, 2015. Please see the [agenda](#) and [registration form](#). A list of possible hotels will be sent out after you register. Attendees will be expected to complete required activities before attending. These will be sent in a later newsletter. Local programs are responsible for the travel, lodging and per diem costs. No meals/snacks/beverages will be provided. Questions? Registrations forms go where? Chris at 1-800-433-4298, option 3 and then option 2, or email cfogelman@mt.gov or fax 406-444-0239 to Chris' attention.

Dietary Guidelines

As many of you have heard, the 2015 Dietary Guidelines is currently under review. The Scientific Report drafted by the Advisory Committee is available to view and make comments on now through April 8th. Follow [this link](#) if you would like to contribute.

USDA Announces \$9 Million to Support Community Food Projects

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced the availability of \$9 million in funding to assist low-income individuals and communities in developing local and independent food systems. [Learn more](#) about these grants that will be funded through the Community Food Project program.



Help us keep the distribution list updated - send e-mail address changes, additions and deletions to the WIC State Office at 1-800-433-4298.

A copy of all newsletters can be found on the [WIC website](#)
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